

## ABSTRACT

Methods for playing variations of the game of chess include a playing area having  
5 144 playing stations arranged in a 12 by 12 matrix. Two, three, or four players can utilize  
the playing area to play a game of chess. The game may be played using common chess  
pieces of a "phantom" player, wherein the real players take turns moving the common  
chess pieces. In a preferred playing embodiment, when a player is checkmated, all of the  
players chess pieces are removed from the playing area. In another preferred  
10 embodiment, when a player is checkmated, only the checkmated player's king is removed  
from the playing area, with all the other chess pieces of the checkmated player remaining  
immobile on playing area. In another preferred embodiment, one or more master pawns  
may replace conventional pawns. The master pawns move diagonally and capture  
straight ahead.